

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, 18-19, and 25 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1 and 15 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, 18-19, and 25 remain at issue.

**I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims**

Claim 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, 18-19, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shishido (U.S. Patent 5,869,782) and Ware (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,573). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a digital signal processing method for reproducing digital signals comprising the steps of storing a data block to be used repeatedly at least twice out of a plurality of data blocks obtained at least by dividing a digital signal on a time base; receiving information indicating the period of time during which the data block is retained, wherein the period of time is related to each use of the data block; and deleting the data block based on the information.

The Examiner agrees that Shishido does not teach a time period indication for deleting the data from the temporary storage, and states that Ware teaches this missing feature. Ware specifies that the lines of the cache can be deleted after a predetermined amount of time or after a predetermined number of accesses have occurred. (See col. 7, lines 2-5.) In Ware, the predetermined amount of time is not related to the use of the data block that is to be used repeatedly at least twice out of a plurality of data blocks obtained at least by dividing a digital signal on a time base. Thus, neither Shishido nor Ware teaches or suggests receiving information indicating the period of time during which the data block is retained, where the

period of time is related to each use of the data block, as required by claim 1. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Shishido and Wave to derive claim 1, or claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-14 that depend from claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15, 18-19 and 25 are also allowable over Shishido and Wave. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 23, 2006

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